المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

9 November 1992

President-elect Bill Clinton
The State House
Little Rock
Arkansas

Dear President-elect Clinton,

Firstly, my warmest congratulations on your winning the election to the office of President of the United States. We wish you every success with the onerous responsibilities that you will face.

Your call for a new beginning brings cautious optimism to those of us, large in number, who are deeply depressed about the prevailing situation in many parts of the world, which we feel can be improved only by clear and firm leadership and commitment by the United States, now the only superpower.

For example, the situation is Bosnia-Herzegovina is a tragedy of immense proportions. An independent state, recognised by the United Nations, is being systematically destroyed and its people ethnically liquidated. After the atrocities of the Nazi regime during and before the Second World War, it is difficult to comprehend that the world can stand idly by when such things are happening again, and daily seen to be happening on their television screens. It is not enough to try to get aid through. People who are already dead have no need of food or medicines. Although terrible devastation has already been wrought it is not too late for a new beginning here and for many lives to be saved during the imminent winter. A firm commitment from the United States to stand firm against the aggressors, to guarantee the integrity of the borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to allow the return in peace of the many thousands who have fled the country, would do much to restore the world's confidence in the true and objective democratic values of your country, as would your call for the perpetrators of these crimes to be brought publically to book.

Another area which gives us great concern is the on-going suffering of the ordinary people of Iraq. You will, I am sure, be aware of the various reports by humanitarian and aid organisations (for example, Oxfam and Harvard University) who have visited Iraq since the end of the Gulf war and reported on the terrible conditions under which the people are existing, with the resultant increases in disease, infant mortality , death and deprivation generally. Surely, there is no

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humanitarian who thinks this situation should be allowed to continue and the innocent to go on suffering. Only the lifting of sanctions can help these people and we hope that you will be able to pressurise for this, in the name of humanity.

I urge you to seek a new beginning not only for the United States, but for people who are suffering everywhere whose daily agonies could be greatly eased by a firm stand taken by the United States. The world badly needs an injection of hope and we are confident that we stand on the threshold of a new era.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General